

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 14-19, 23 and 24 remain pending. Claims 1, 16, and 17 have been amended. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Bergin for granting an interview on July 11, 2002 to discuss the rejection of claim 1 in view of the Bonnaure and Ye references. In that interview, Applicants described the presently claimed invention, the operation of the Bonnaure and Ye references, and the applicability of these references to the claimed invention. ✓

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Patent No. WO 98/04088 to Bonnaure et al. ("Bonnaure") and "A Proposal for a Geographic-Based Address Structure for IPv6" to Ye ("Ye"). Claims 10, 14, 15, 19, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonnaure, Ye and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,032,989 to Tornetta ("Tornetta").

In view of the interview with the Examiner, the pending independent claims have been amended to replace the "associated" language of these claims with "identified" language. As seen, for example, at pages 5 and 6 of the present application.

Ye describes a mechanism for encoding the geographic location of a system into an IPV6 address. The purpose of Ye's work is to improve routing within the network by permitting routers to use the geographic location of the machine along with the geographic location of the router to determine which next hop router is in the correct direction. After completely describing this encoding scheme, Ye then states that each of the machines must be assigned the IPV6 address of the router to which they are connected for this approach to routing to work. In all cases, Ye is taking the geographic location of a physical entity and mapping that geographic location into an Internet Protocol addressing entity.

Bonnaure describes a mechanism for establishing secure connections between a WEBTV server and a WEBTV client using a multi-step process. In this process, the WEBTV client calls an 800 number to connect to a first server. This first server uses the ANI (Caller ID) information to determine where the client is located from a phone dialing perspective, not a physical location

perspective. It then uses a database of phone numbers to determine the best phone number to call for the user's connection based on a set of criteria like time-of-day and phone exchange. At the same time, it generates an encryption key for the client to use for the subsequent transmission. This first call is then ended. The client then connects using the new phone number and establishes an encrypted session to the WEBTV server. Once at the WEBTV server, there is mention that the WEBTV server might tailor information presented to the client based on knowledge of the phone number the client used to establish the connection.

To assist in understanding differences between the claimed invention and the cited references, some terms should be defined.

"Universal Resource Locator" (URL) as defined in RFC 1738 is a string of characters made up of the following components:

<scheme>:<scheme-specific-part>

The general format for a <scheme-specific-part> is //<user>:<password>@<host>:<port>/<url-path> in which the <user>:<password>@ is often omitted along with the :<port>.

<host> may either be a domain name server (DNS) defined name or an IP address. When specified as a DNS name, it is mapped to one or more IP addresses. Eventually, this <host> points to a single physical computer that will provide the requested resource.

"Web site" is a collection of web pages, each web page having a unique URL. All pages within a web site have an identical initial <scheme-specific-part> differing only in the final parts of the <url-path>.

"Link" is a reference to a web page from another web page.

One physical machine may (and often does) support multiple web sites.

A concept recited in the pending claims relates to the establishment of links on web pages based on geographic proximity of the information content represented by the web sites to each other. In one example, this is done by identifying each web site by a geographic location. For example, one web site has associated with it the coordinates of 41.327113, -073.828090. These coordinates are not encoded and placed within the IP address for the server or even within the URL for the web site. They are kept in a pair of columns within a database that contains all of the information for this web site and many others.

Using this coordinate, when particular pages are displayed on this web site, links are generated on this web site that point to web pages on other web sites that have been identified by a geographic location near the geographic location identified by this web site.

Ye's example showed encoding locations of physical entities into IP addresses. Ye's whole premise is based on location of a physical entity and has nothing to do with cyberspace. Bonnaure once again is dealing with solving physical problems, not cyberspace mapping. Bonnaure relates to mapping cyberspace entities into the physical world and associating one cyberspace entity with another based on how they are mapped into the physical world. Moreover, taking Ye in connection with Bonnaure would not lead one to the claimed invention.

Nowhere in the cited references is it taught or suggested that web-sites, each with a URL, are each identified by a physical location. Moreover, nowhere in the cited references is it taught or suggested to present links to a web-site based on the relationship between the physical locations assigned to them. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 14-19, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Dated: September 6, 2002

By: 

Shawn W. O'Dowd

Reg. No. 34,687

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 220-4200 telephone

Marked up copy of the amended claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of providing information to a user comprising:
collecting information at a first computer system;
organizing said information into a plurality of first web-sites, each of said first web-sites being addressable by a unique Universal Resource Locator (URL) and each of said first web-sites being identified by [having] a physical location [associated therewith];
assigning one of said first web-sites to a user as a user web-site; and
selecting links to a plurality of said first web-sites for presentation on said user web-site based on a relationship between the physical locations [associated with] identified by said first web-sites and the physical location [associated with] identified by said user web-site.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of providing information to a user comprising:
collecting information at a first computer system;
organizing said information into a plurality of first web-sites, each of said first web-sites being addressable by a unique Universal Resource Locator (URL) and each of said first web-sites being identified by [having] a physical location [associated therewith];
assigning one of said first web-sites to a user as a user web-site;
selecting links to a plurality of said first web-sites for presentation on said user web-site based on a relationship between the physical locations [associated with] identified by said first web-sites and the physical location [associated with] identified by said user web-site; and
accessing said user web-site by a second user.

17. (Twice Amended) A system for providing information to a user comprising:
a first computer system adapted to collect information and organize said information into a plurality of first web-sites, each of said first web-sites being addressable by a Universal Resource Locator (URL) and each of said first web-sites being identified by [having] a physical location [associated therewith], said first computer system further adapted to assign one of said first web-sites to a user as a user web-site and present links to a plurality of said first web-sites on said user web-site based on a relationship between the physical locations [associated with]

identified by said first web-sites and the physical location [associated with] identified by said user web-site.